

CBS EVENING NEWS

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>SOVIET WEAPONS/>RATHER: The Soviet-made weapons captured during the  
>CIA>U.S. military invasion of Grenada in October 1983 has  
turned out to be a bigger bonanza than first thought.  
Pentagon correspondent David Martin explains why.

MARTIN: Informed sources tell CBS News that most of the  
Soviet-made weapons captured by American troops in Grenada  
have been secretly turned over to the CIA to arm  
U.S.-backed guerrillas in places like Nicaragua and  
Afghanistan. These same weapons were once denounced by  
President Reagan as the tools of Soviet-backed subversion.  
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: This warehouse contained weapons  
and ammunition stacked almost to the ceiling, enough to  
supply thousands of terrorists.

MARTIN: The captured weapons, which were once prominently  
displayed, looked like a major windfall for the CIA,  
nearly 10,000 rifles, 5+ million rounds of ammunition  
along with anti-aircraft and machine guns, enough,  
according to the Pentagon, to equip two infantry  
battalions for 30-45 days of combat. Since the weapons  
are Soviet-made, they have the added attraction of not  
being traceable to the U.S. Some of the ammunition is  
still stored here in bunkers at an Army depot in  
Pennsylvania, waiting to be distributed to what the  
Pentagon calls 'other government agencies.' Sources say  
the CIA wanted to transfer the weapons to the contras at  
no cost. But the Senate Intelligence Committee objected,  
arguing that the CIA was trying to evade the ban on  
spending for the secret war against Nicaragua. Until  
Congress lifts that ban, the CIA is prohibited from  
sending any of the Grenada cash to Central America. But  
the weapons here remain available to supply the CIA's  
expanding war in Afghanistan. David Martin, CBS News,  
\*Leonard Kinney Army Depot. <